

from Exeter High in Exeter, Nebraska, and their teacher, who are visiting us today. Will you please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you, Senator Chambers. I will let you open now on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Madam President, members of the Legislature, I heard Senator Lindsay's explanation of why this amendment is being offered in the form that it is. What my amendment would do, however, is strike all of that language and insert in its place the words "or near." And what that would do is go to the green copy and have the effect of striking those words "or near" from the bill itself, and it would read in the bill, this facility would be located in a city of the metropolitan class. They can do studies, and they can do studies, but the reality is something that we all are aware of right now. Most of the persons who will wind up in this facility, if it is authorized and if funding is approved, that is kind of far down the road, but this is a preliminary consideration. If all of those contingencies are realized, then we know the majority of the people who will wind up in that facility will come from Omaha. Omaha is the only city of the metropolitan class in the state. My amendment would put the facility in the city where most of the occupants would live prior to taking up residence in this facility. Whatever family, friends, some will even have church affiliations that existed prior to going into this facility would be located near enough to the facility for those people to continue to have communication and contact with the juveniles who would wind up in this facility. There would be a greater likelihood of direct community involvement to monitor what is happening in that facility, to participate in helping to construct and maintain programs that will aim at the rehabilitation of these young people. The ultimate goal of 988, expressed as inartfully as it is under the poor drafting which has occurred, is to try to help rescue whatever young people we can from the clutches of a life of crime and degradation. We want to restore them to a position where they have self-esteem, a sense of personal dignity, and an awareness that there is an obligation for them to live in accord with the laws and be productive members of the community. We hope that they will be taught the value of not only being a part of a family, but refraining from the kind of conduct that brings shame upon themselves individually and their family members. This bill gives us an opportunity to try to while we are talking about punishment to work at some of the underlying causes that lead juveniles to commit the offenses that will land them in a